(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट): (क) राज्य सरकार ने विदिशा जिले के बाह सिंचाई परियोजना का कार्यक्षेत्र बदल दिया है और इस पर पुनर्विचार करने का अनुरोध किया है। प्रस्ताव की पुनः जांच करने के बाद राज्य सरकार से कतिपय अनिवार्य ब्यौरे मांगे गए हैं ताकि केन्द्र सरकार पर्यावरणीय और वानिकी दृष्टि से प्रस्ताव का मूल्यांकन कर सके।

(ख) और (ग) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत मध्यप्रदेश राज्य सरकार से ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ।

Telephone Connections on Demand in North-East Region

*38 SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Action-plan to provide telephone connections on demand to consumers of North-East region as whole and particularly Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The waiting list as on 31st March, 1995 was 23355 in NE Region (including 15028 in Assam). The Department has plans to provide 30,700 telephone connections in NE Region during 1995-96 (Including 14600 in Assam). This will not only clear most of the waiting list as on 31st March, 1995 but will also enable to provide new connection to some of those applicants registered during the current year 1995-96.

National Telecom Policy 1994 however envisages to provide telephone on demand throughout the country including NE region by 1997.

The waiting period for telephone connection is likely to be brought down significantly by 31st March, 1996 at most of the places in NE region including Assam.

Productivity of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineering Ltd. (HDPEL)

*39. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1130 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether a short term plan for revival of HDPEL had been examined by an expert group;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) whether Government have agreed, in principle, to revive the company; and

(d) if so, the envisaged zero date for implementation of the revival plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Inter-ministerial consultations on the report are in progress.

News regarding use of cow fat by Pepsi Co.

*40 SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press news-item captioned "Pepsi uses cow fat in chewinggums" as reported in 'Pioneer' dated 8th February, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the use of cow and beef fat is permissible in manufacturing toffees and chewinggums; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not granted any approval to M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited or to M/s. Pepsico India Holdings for manufacture of chewing-gum. M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited have also stated that neither they nor M/s. Pepsico India Holdings or any of its subsidiaries manufactures or markets chewinggum.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, no action is called for.

Pending applications for Approval for the Production of Naphtha NGL

*132 SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of Naphtha/NGL is made only after meeting the demand of indigenous industry;

(b) if so, the number of files/cases pertaining to the allocation/administrative final approval of NGL/Naphtha are pending in MoS office since the past one month; and

(c) the reasons for not granting final approval to the cases pending since the past more than one month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of applications for allocation of Naphtha/NGL are received from various firms/companies. As NGL/Naphtha are highly inflammable products and can be used for adulteration of petrol/diesel, the applications are minutely scrutinised and carefully processed in consultation with the Oil Companies, Oil Coordination Committee, various sponsoring Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Power, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Steel and expert opinion. The applicants are required also to furnish certificates/clearances from various authorities like the State Pollution Control Board, the Chief Controller of Explosives, Directorate of Industries of State, etc. As allocation is based on recommendations/clearances of other Ministries/authorities, expert opinion and logistic feasibility, the process is inherently time-consuming and it takes time to take final decision. All efforts are made to expedite decision.

दूरसंचार निगम द्वारा विदेशी बाज़ार से संसाधनों का जुटाया जाना

133 **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या दूरसंचार निगम ने अपनी आधुनिकीकरण और विकास योजनाओं के लिए विदेशी बाजार से अतिरिक्त संसाधन जुटाने का निर्णय लिया है,

(ख) क्या दूरसंचार निगम विदेशी बाज़ार में यूरो वाण्ड जारी करने का विचार रखता है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या और यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक ले लिया जाएगा,

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) जी हां।

(ख) जी हां। महानगर टेलीफोन निगम लिमिटेड के मामले में नीचे उत्तर (ग)(i) के अनुसार

(ग) (i) महानगर टेलीफोन निगम लिमिटेड द्वारा विश्व बाज़ार में 250 मिलियन अमरीकी डॉलर के समतुल्य बंधपत्र जारी करने का प्रस्ताव, हाल ही में